

**SOUTH PASADENA LOCAL HISTORY  
SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY MATERIALS  
SUBJECT: OSTRICH FARM**

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
“Cawston Ostrich Farm: Accent on SoPas History,” by Norma LeValley. . . . .	2
“One of the Strangest Sights in America,” by Rick Thomas. . . . .	6

# Cawston Ostrich Farm: Accent On SOPAS History

by Norma LeValley

Back in 1889 South Pasadena had a tourist attraction so popular that the Pacific Electric Railroad established special branch lines to accommodate visitors.

Edwin Cawston's nine-acre Ostrich Farm in the area of Sycamore Avenue, Arroyo Verde, and Monterey Road boasted over 250 live ostriches.

Bringing Herbert Vatcher with him from England to landscape and lay out the grounds, Edwin Cawston started with 50 birds that he brought by ship and train from Africa. His ostrich farm was so popular that more mail came there at the turn of the century than any other city in California.

He negotiated with the South African Government to buy the 50 birds for \$6,000 in 1886, shipping out in the middle of the night to avoid the imposed duty of \$500 per ostrich and \$25 per egg.

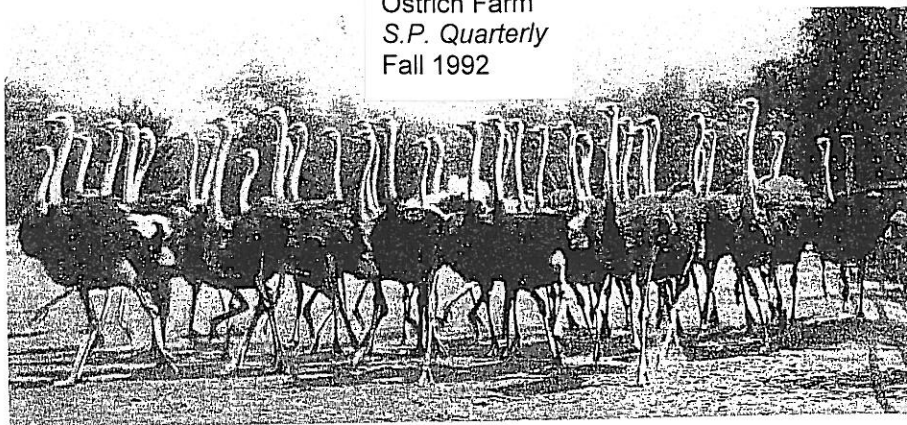
He had prepared a ship expressly fitted with padded enclosures and stocked with tons of food, including gravel so important for the ostriches. Still, the 5 weeklong trip was traumatic. The birds were put ashore in Galveston, Texas only to board railroad cars for the rest of the trip.

By the time they reached Southern California, 32 ostriches had perished. The 18 which survived were the parents of the many birds to come. Records reveal that he imported 4 pair of Nubian ostriches from North Africa to breed with the others in an attempt to achieve more beautiful plumage. No other records of further importing have been found.

He located the farm in Los Angeles County until he found the permanent area in South Pasadena in 1896, which he incorporated in 1906.

The farm was located in a 9

Ostrich Farm  
S.P. Quarterly  
Fall 1992



'WATCH BIRDS'--A common sight at the turn of the century until the 1930s were the 'tourist attraction' ostriches seen at the popular Cawston Ostrich Farm. Starting with 50, the flocks grew and provided fashionable feathers throughout the world.

## ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR YOUR PET?

### MISSION ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We have been serving the community with high quality  
Veterinary Care since 1970

Senior Citizens  
Discounts

We Converse in  
Chinese & Spanish

Ask about our Geriatric  
Program



Emergency  
Service

Pet Insurance  
Welcome

Credit Cards Accepted

(818) 289-3643

25 West Mission Road in Alhambra (Mission Road at First)



## The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA

### SERVICES OUR ORGANIZATION OFFERS:

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Animal Cruelty Investigation
- Pet Adoption Program
- Humane Education
- Spay-Neuter Program
- Boarding Privileges

### OUR WORK DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT

Become a Member of P.H.S. Today! With your contribution we can continue to provide food, shelter and safety to the many homeless animals that find refuge in our shelter every day.

All donations are tax-deductible - You'll receive a membership card and immediate boarding privileges. The Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA does not release any animal for research purposes.

361 South Raymond Avenue • Pasadena • California • 792-7151 • 792-1016



**Laurie Jutzi**

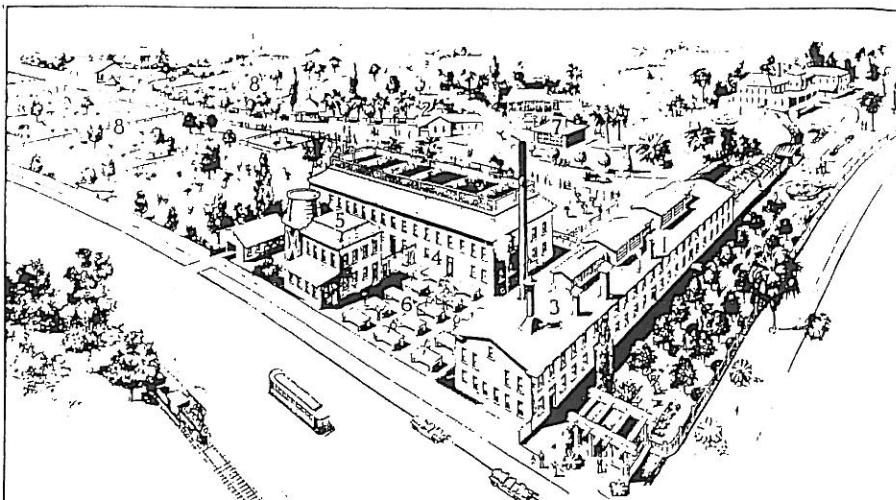
- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Experience

**The William Wilson Company**

Real Estate Since 1887

818/ 576-7889

818/ 441-0752



**CAWSTON OSTRICH FARM**--At the turn of the century, the nine-acre ostrich farm, located by Sycamore Avenue and Pasadena Avenue, featured ostriches from birth to 'feather harvesting.' Feather showroom featured hats, plumes and boas of the day.

## Ostrich

from page 37

acre section surrounded by the Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads. There were also stops for the Pacific Electric Car bringing visitors east from Los Angeles and west from Pasadena.

The farm was open from 9 a.m. until dark every day. Ad-

mission was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. It was a semi-tropical park lined with orange groves, palm trees and the stately live oaks indigenous to that region. He had terraced the park with cobblestone ditches and paths.

An unusual effect was achieved by allowing ferns to grow up on the roofs of the buildings and trail around the oak trunks. Viewing benches were scattered in strategic locations. An aviary displayed rare tropical birds along with those native to California. There was a large fish pond and a wishing well. The gardens were lovely stage sets and some of the backgrounds were painted with pyramid and desert scenes for the benefit of people who came to the ostrich farm to see ostriches from "the egg to the plume."

He provided guides to give patrons the background about the care and feeding of the ostrich. They would relate amusing stories about the birds, asking visitors to beware of diamond broaches, hats and green veil as the ostrich loved to chew such articles.

The birds were fed an excellent diet of vegetables, including turnips, alfalfa greens, carrots and beets. They were given quantities of gravel and at noon each

## NEW YORK LIFE

A.M. Best : A+ (Superior)

Moody's : Aaa

S&P : AAA

ASK ME:...about college education plans, gifting, and other financial strategies.

Tel: (818) 799-9962

Fax: (818) 799-6218



Brokerage & Group Insurance Shopping Available

**Robert S. Quan, Ph.D.**  
Insurance & Financial Services  
1514 Oak Street, South Pasadena

Member, Million Dollar Round Table since 1982

See Ostrich page 39

## Ostrich

from page 38

day, broken bones and shell bits.

A tour of the farm would probably start in the brooding house. Here, visitors could gaze on 3-pound eggs with the chicks pecking their way out of the shell. The baby ostrich is about 12 inches tall at birth. It reaches its height before the year is up as it grows a foot taller each month. The average height for the adult ostrich is 7 to 8 feet tall.

The chicks look alike until they reach maturity. At this time the male bird begins to look darker with glossier feathers. It is the male bird who prepares the nest by scratching a hollow in the warm sand. The female lays an egg every other day until she has put up to 15 in the nest.

The male shares the incubation duty with the female. He sits at night and she sits in the daytime. If the female, for some reason, refuses to sit, the male will refuse also. The incubation lasts about six weeks, hatching strong babies covered with stubby feathers.

The tour would continue to the various corrals enclosing the adult birds. There were small enclosures for the mating pairs and one large corral holding up to 150 ostriches. There were signs

requesting that visitors not feed the birds which, like today, were ignored.

People delighted in throwing whole oranges to the birds who would open their beaks to about 4 inches and gulp one after the other. Sometimes one would see as many as ten oranges moving down one long neck at a time.

After viewing the ostrich in a natural type setting, visitors were welcomed to watch the clipping of the feathers when the birds had matured.

Mr. Cawston was very careful to inform the public that his method of taking feathers was not painful nor injurious to the ostrich. He advertised in the local newspapers when clipping time was near so that the public would feel free to attend. The birds would be clipped after each seven months of growth.

For the clipping, the bird had to be coaxed into a corner. He was blindfolded with a large hood. One man sat astride the bird while another clipped one feather at a time from the wings and tail only. The quill stumps were left in the birds so that the secretions from them could be absorbed before the new feathers began to grow in their places.

See Ostrich page 40

## SOUTH PASADENA NURSERY

### Fall Specials

Open 7 Days - For All Your Gardening Needs

Bedding Plants, Drought Tolerant Perennials, Herbs, Shrubs, Trees, Roses, House Plants, Exotic Tropicals, Decorative Planters, Pottery, Redwoods, Fertilizer, Insecticides, Tools, Statues, Stepping Stones

*Fine Selection of Fountains & Bird Baths*

### Spring Color Begins This Fall

Our imported Holland bulbs are the pick of the crop



FREE DELIVERY WITH MINIMUM ORDER

**(818) 799-9914**

1507 El Centro • South Pasadena  
(At Mission Oaks Center Behind Bank of America)



Ample Parking



## COME GET FIT...

CERTIFIED - QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

Offering a variety of classes morning, afternoon and evening.

Something for everyone

- Aerobics
- Step Aerobics
- Muscle Strengthening/Toning
- Relaxercise - Stretch
- Yoga
- Jazz
- Children's Classes
- Massage
- No Skin Health Fitness Line

Director

Estelle J. Ballas

AFAA Certified Fitness Instructor



BABYSITTING  
AVAILABLE

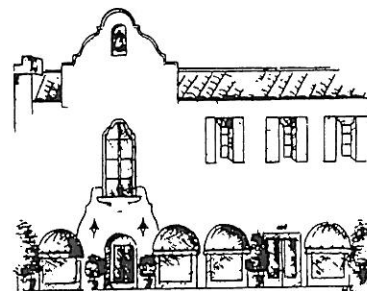
NEW  
LOCATION

812 Fremont Avenue  
2nd Floor  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
(818)

BODY  
WORK

for fitness

## Looking for that 'once in a lifetime' treasure?



### Take a walk through time!

Our 65 professional dealers offer quality antiques at competitive prices.

Everything for your home, from buttonbooks to bedroom sets, mellowed by the gentle touch of time.

American • English • European

### THE PASADENA ANTIQUE CENTER

Shop in air-conditioned comfort.  
Major credit cards accepted. Open daily: 10-6

480 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena  
(818) 449-7706 (818) 578-9556



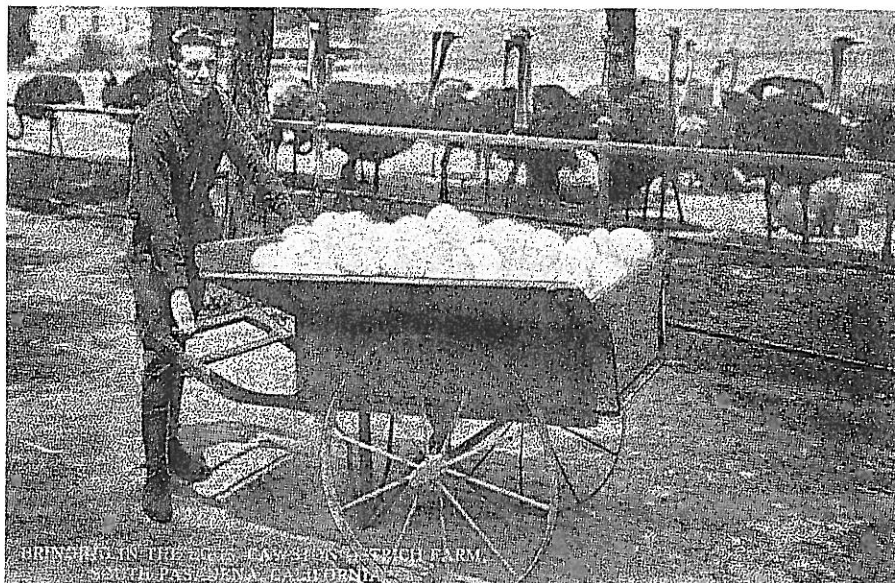
## Ostrich

from page 39

The visitor now continued his tour to the factory where the feathers were graded, sorted as to color, length and width, curled and dyed to match any sample color. There were over 500 grades of feathers. The advertising promise was that any order would be filled with great care, regardless of the size of the order.

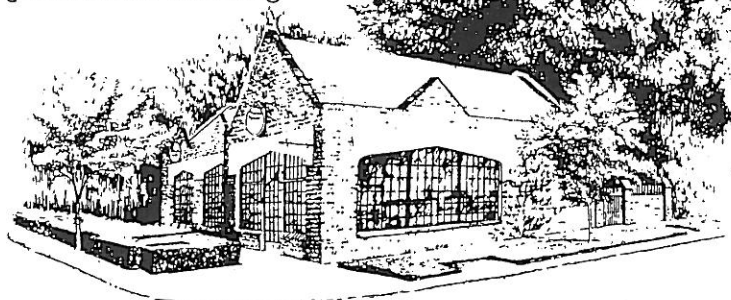
The final sight on the tour through the ostrich farm was the display room. In this exhibit feather goods worth \$50,000 were displayed.

Mr. Cawston was extremely sensitive to public opinion. He was careful to publicize the fact that he did not approve of killing



SCRAMBLED--From the turn of the century through the '30s, South Pasadena was the home of Cawston Ostrich Farm -- the Disneyland of its day. About five acres of land in park-like setting featured performing ostriches and feather salesrooms.

### Markey & Associates REAL ESTATE BROKERS



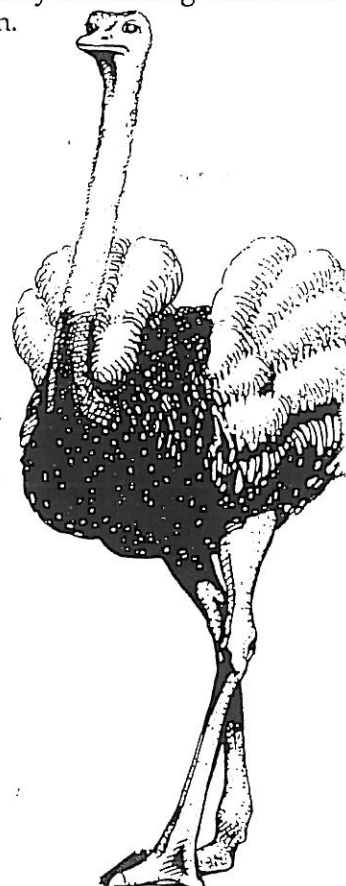
636 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA. 91030

TELEPHONE (818) 441-3171

**Service With Integrity...**

birds for their feathers. He even managed to obtain a statement from the Audubon Society acknowledging his method as harmless.

Several of Cawston's ostriches had names such as Maggie, Jiggs, George Washington and Mrs. McKinley and could be heard trumpeting during breeding, greatly resembling the roar of a lion.



## The Crossbow Steak House

*Larry Fredlender invites you to...*

**Dine • Dance • Celebrate  
at The Crossbow!**

**(818) 799-0758**

**1400 Huntington, South Pasadena**



# One of the Strangest Sights in

BY RICK THOMAS

Ostrich Farm  
The Quarterly  
Summer 2001

## The Ostrich Feather

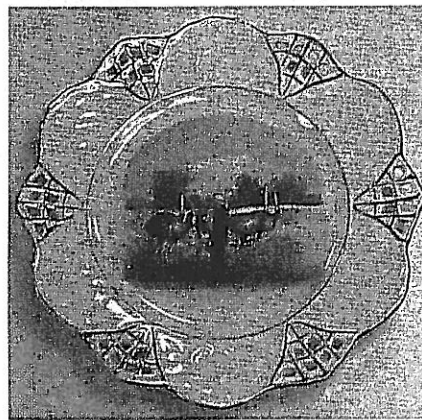
It's hard to imagine how popular ostrich feathers were a hundred years ago. While fashions come and go with each season now, ostrich feather fashions remained popular in America for nearly 25 years. The ostrich feather symbolized wealth and upper class refinement much as a fine automobile does today. One Cawston catalogue declared: "Ostrich feathers are now as staple as diamonds. They do not fluctuate in popularity like furs, and are constantly used."

Ostrich feathers were dyed in a variety of colors ranging from black, white, light blue and pink. They were handcrafted into an array of garments and accessories, such as boas, hats, fans and muffs. Imagine the scene in the late 1800s when the Victorian time period dictated a flowing and less ambiguous adornment. Ostrich feathers piled atop a broad-rimmed hat had an airy-floating grace and seemed to accent the more restrained cotton dress that had a corset pulled tight underneath. Prices remained high for imported ostrich feathers from South Africa, the principal supplier of ostrich feathers for the world's fashion community at that time.

Edwin Cawston, English adventurer and world traveler, quickly realized there was big money to be made in ostrich farming in America. He was convinced that Southern California, with its year-round mild climate, was the perfect location to launch his new business enterprise.

## Midnight Run

Cawston traveled to South Africa in July, 1886 to acquire his valuable feathered stock. While there, the Cape Colony government caught wind of his business plans in California and hastily passed a law requiring a \$500 duty per ostrich and \$125 per egg (a huge sum in 1886) to export this unpredictable bird to America. In a bold move,

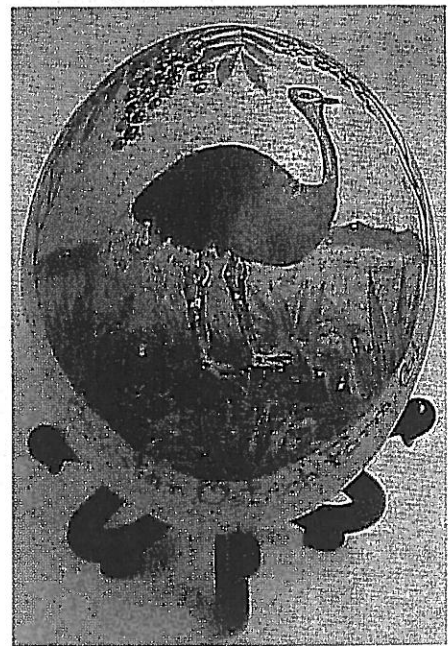


Edwin Cawston set sail from South Africa leaving with more than 50 male and female ostriches on the eve the protectionist law went into effect.

Cawston purchased land in South Pasadena to build his showcase ostrich farm. With nearby Pasadena winter tourism at an all-time high, his goal was to attract large numbers of visitors to his farm and gain national attention in the process.

## A Trip to the Farm

Ostriches were rarely seen in America before the turn of the century. Cawston's farm was not a sterile farm-like environment or a traditional zoo setting, but akin to a modern day amusement park that rivaled the top Southern California



attractions of that time: Santa Catalina's Avalon Bay, Busch Gardens, Mt. Lowe Railway, and Gay's Lion Farm in El Monte.

Visitors to the farm saw the attendants tossing whole oranges to the ostriches. Large crowds would gather during these feedings. They relished the odd sight of several baseball sized lumps moving slowly down the ostriches' slender, snake-like necks. Another entertaining feature of the farm was watching an attendant ride an ostrich bareback. One Cawston brochure described it



# America



as "a most difficult feat and a rare sight."

Visitors were also treated to walking tours of the entire facility where all phases of the ostrich feather operation were explained and viewed. One promotional brochure read:

*Come to the farm prepared to spend several hours in the beautiful semi-tropical park of flowers, palms, trees, etc.; enjoy the comfort of the rustic seats, the pretty lawns and the shaded nooks; take afternoon tea at the Japanese Tea Garden on the farm. See the aviary of rare birds, the Ostrich Incubators and young chicks of all ages, how ostrich feathers are dyed, curled and handled.*

The tour ended on the Cawston salesroom gift shop. Souvenir sales

"It's a pleasure to have professional, courteous, and personalized service with an ethical shop."

*Satisfied customer,  
—John Seymour*

## ABSOLUTE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, INC.

SERVICE & REPAIR:  
**626-440-9777**

SALES & LEASING:  
**626-795-5109**

451 South Arroyo Parkway • Pasadena  
[www.absoluteautoinc.com](http://www.absoluteautoinc.com)

### SERVICE and REPAIR

Specializing in:

- BMW, MBZ, Volvo
- Lexus, Infiniti
- Acura, Honda
- 12 Month/1200 Mile Warranty
- 626-440-9777**

### SALES and LEASING

- New and Pre-Owned
- All Makes and Models
- Extended Warranties
- 626-795-5109**



We have a New Name,  
Number & Location ...  
Same GREAT Service!

### Formerly Travel Center Pasadena

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| • CRUISES            | • BRIDAL REGISTRY      |
| • TOURS              | • TROPICAL WEDDINGS    |
| • GROUPS             | • HONEYMOONS           |
| • AIRLINE TICKETS    | • VACATION PACKAGES    |
| • CAR RENTALS        | • PRIVATE JET CHARTERS |
| • HOTEL RESERVATIONS | • DOCUMENT DELIVERY    |

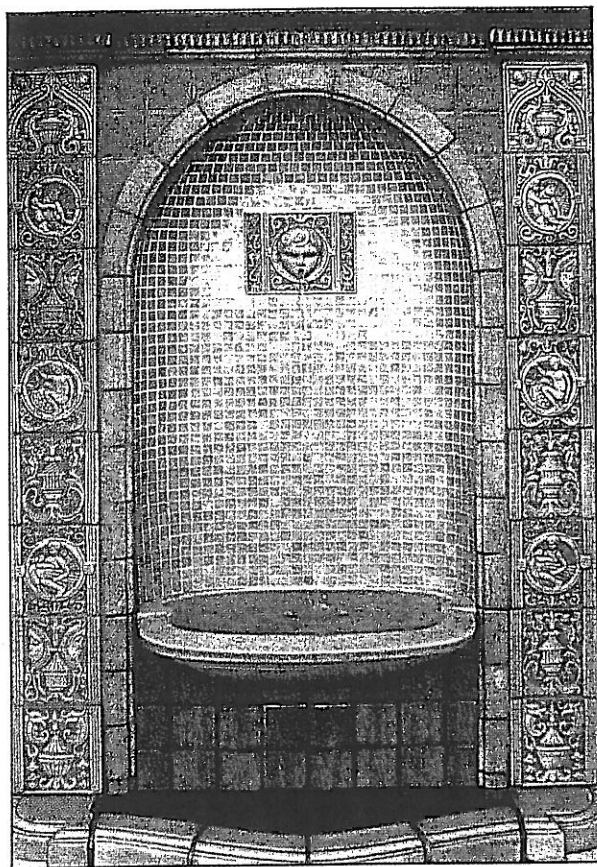
**626-796-4448 • [www.mytravelitinerary.com](http://www.mytravelitinerary.com)**

**119 West California Blvd • Pasadena**

Located in the Vons Orangewood Shopping Center  
Across from Huntington Hospital • Monday - Friday 9-5  
Weekends & after-hours by appointment

.....  
New York • London • Paris • Pasadena • Palm Springs • Palm Desert

# MISSION TILE WEST



Fine handcrafted ceramics, terracottas and stone.  
In-house design service available.

853 Mission Street  
South Pasadena  
(626) 799-4595

1207 4th Street, Suite 100  
Santa Monica  
(310) 434-9697

were brisk at the gift shop. Every kind of trinket imaginable had the Cawston mark on it: pocket mirrors, pocket knives, watch fobs, letter openers, paper weights, toothpick holders, match safes, napkin holders, hand-painted plates, tape measures, buttons, spoons and trays of every shape and size. Other popular souvenirs for visitors were photo post cards of a guest sitting bareback on an ostrich (either live or stuffed), ostrich plumes sealed in envelopes and boxes, and hollow ostrich eggs beautifully hand-painted by local artisans.

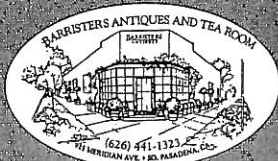
Eastern tourists were encouraged to leave the names and addresses of their friends back home. Cawston would mail each of them - free of charge - three souvenir post cards and an illustrated Cawston catalogue.

## Solar Power and Ostriches

In 1901, the Cawston Ostrich Farm was the site of the world's first successful experiment using a solar-powered motor for commercial use. Aubrey Eneas selected Cawston's Ostrich Farm in sunny South Pasadena to showcase his monstrous, parabolic dish and launch his new company, The Solar Motor Co.

The solar motor consisted of a boiler 13 feet in length and a foot wide, containing 1,000 gallons of water. The solar mirrors were configured to focus concentrated light energy onto the boiler. The water boiled and transferred steam to an engine that pumped 1,400 gallons of water per minute from a deep well on the Cawston farm.

It was an odd site for sure: Cawston's flock of some 260 strange-looking birds milling around a towering mechanical beast with its 1,788 mirrors flashing in the bright sun. This spectacle lured several newspaper and magazine reporters to the farm. They reported tales of the California ostrich farm to their Midwest and East Coast readers who were hungry for stories about the west. The New York press described this ostrich farm as "One of the strangest sights in America." Cawston loved the free publicity as



## Tea Room

Thursday - Sunday Seatings: 1:30 & 3:30 & 5:30 (Reservations Required)  
Private Teas for all Occasions • Gift Certificates Available

## Catering • Private Room

For your special events. Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 7

## Café

Homemade Soups, English Scones, Meat Pies, Sausage Rolls,  
Ploughman's Lunch, Salads, Sandwiches, Desserts and Pastries.

Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 7

**BARRISTERS ANTIQUES AND TEA ROOM**  
921 MERIDIAN • SOUTH PASADENA (626) 441-1323



evidenced by his repeating such comments in his advertisements, brochures and catalogues.

The farm was a huge success by all accounts and in a few short years was known as one of California's most popular tourist attractions. At Mt. Lowe's Inspiration Point, there was a hollow-tube scope with a metal sign hanging below it that read "ostrich farm" and pointed tourists to its location in South Pasadena.

#### By Rail or Road

The farm was ideally located mid-way between downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena; easily accessible by established steam and electric railways or by automobile on oiled, dirt roads. The ostrich farm even had its own train stop. From Los Angeles, visitors could take the South Pasadena trolley cars on Main Street marked "Cawston Ostrich Farm." Round trip excursion tickets cost 25 cents, and included admission to the farm. Tickets could be purchased at the Pacific Electric Railway ticket office or at Cawston's Los Angeles Store at 313 South Broadway.

In 1911, Cawston donated a large sum of money to help South Pasadena pay for the completion of the York Street Bridge that crossed the Arroyo. Of course the gesture benefited his farm the most by bringing even more traffic directly to his doorstep. Upon completion of the bridge, the ostrich farm entrance was immediately changed to face Pasadena Avenue to accommodate the increased flow of tourists arriving from Los Angeles by the wildly popular automobile.

The Cawston property resembled the shape of a giant slice of pizza with the railway bordering on one edge, and the roadway on the other. Near the crust of the "Cawston slice" was the showroom/entrance and feather dye factory.

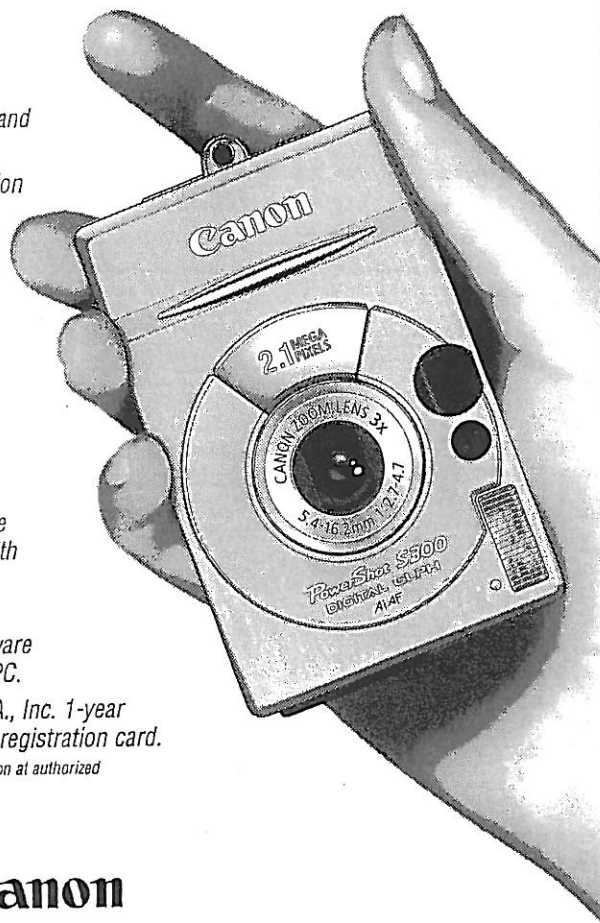
#### A Boastful Cawston

To promote his burgeoning mail order business, Edwin Cawston mailed thousands of catalogues and placed advertisements in many of the largest national publications. It

## are you digital yet?

- Ultra-compact, ultra-elegant stainless steel design with new and improved features.
- 2.1 Megapixel resolution with powerful 3x optical/7.5x digital zoom.
- Uses powerful lithium-ion battery and CompactFlash™ removable storage.
- High-speed USB data transfer and audio-video out.
- Supports movie mode and direct printing with optional Card Photo Printer CP-10.
- Comprehensive software bundle for Mac and PC.
- Includes Canon U.S.A., Inc. 1-year limited warranty and registration card.

Warranty available for inspection at authorized Canon dealers.



**Canon**

**PowerShot S300 \$599.<sup>95</sup>**  
**DIGITAL ELPH**

**LEE-MAC CAMERA**

**252 S. Lake Avenue • Pasadena • 626-792-4343**

## What's all the Commotion? FOCAL POINT FITNESS

a personal approach to health and fitness



Custom Designed Private Fitness Studio  
By Appointment Only



**Daniel H. Farley, Founder**  
 > Graduate of USC's  
 Dept. of Education &  
 Exercise Science  
 > ACE-Certified  
 Personal Trainer  
 > IDEA Master PFT

#### Benefits of Regular Exercise:

- Lower Risk of Developing Cardiovascular Disease
- Lower Risk Of Developing High Blood Pressure
- Enhance Flexibility
- Reduce Stress
- Increase Lean Muscle Mass
- Increase Balance & Coordination

For further information call **(626) 799-4FIT (4348)**  
Visit us at: **www.focalpointfit.com**

**Address:** 1143 South Fair Oaks Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91105

Fitness Programs available in areas of: *Functional Strength Training, Sport-Specific Training, Pre & Post Natal Fitness Programs, Senior Fitness as well as Flexibility Programs*

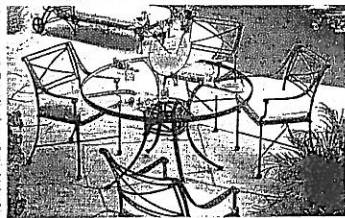


## EURO Classics

Quality Patio & Casual Furniture Specialty Store.

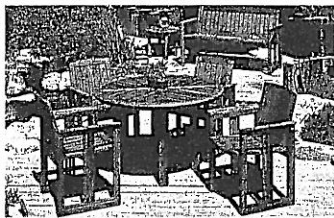
- Fountains • Outdoor Lighting • Statues
- Replacement Cushions • Patio and Market Umbrellas

### SUN CREATIONS



ROMA Series Cast Aluminum

### TERRA



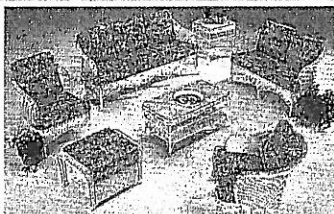
SEASONS Series Teak Furniture

### ALU-MONT



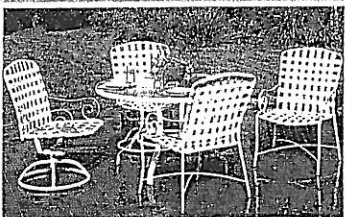
SHERWOOD Cushion Series  
Tubular Aluminum Furniture

### SUNROCA



FLORENTINE Series  
'All Weather Wicker'

### ALU-MONT



RENAISSANCE Strap Series  
Tubular Aluminum Furniture

### UNITED PACIFIC TEAK



KENSINGTON Series Teak  
Many Styles to Choose From

2366 Huntington Drive, San Marino (Between San Marino Ave. and Del Mar)

626-286-2626

Open MON-SAT 10am-6pm SUN 10am-4pm



eventually became so successful that Cawston boasted he received more mail to his South Pasadena address than anyone in California. At the height of the ostrich farm's success, "Cawston's" retail stores were opened in many of the larger cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Every Cawston sale was direct to the customer and came with a signed guarantee to replace any feather in which defects developed within one year from the date of purchase. Edwin Cawston would have loved the Internet!

Typical of turn-of-the-century showmen, Cawston possessed a flare for overstatement, especially when an opportunity presented itself to promote his farm. He boasted on numerous occasions that his was "the original ostrich farm in America." This claim was false. Although he was certainly an early pioneer in America's ostrich farming industry, there were at least two other farms (Anaheim and Fallbrook, California) that opened before his. Nevertheless, Cawston repeated this claim over and over in brochures, newspaper and magazine advertisements, and catalogues.

Cawston's was certainly the best known and most profitable ostrich farm in America. In fact, several more farms sprang up overnight in the wake of Cawston's successful venture in South Pasadena. The more notable farms were located in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Hot Springs, Arkansas.

### Going Home

Despite his great business success in America, Cawston always remained loyal to his roots in England. At the entrance of his world famous ostrich farm one could see the early morning ritual of running the flag of the United State's Stars and Stripes up a pole along side the United Kingdom's Union Jack. In 1911, Cawston agreed to sell his ostrich farming empire to a syndicate of Los Angeles bankers for the huge sum of \$1.25 million dollars. The ostrich king then



## ATP

- Personal Training Studio
- Weight Training
- Cardio Equipment
- Shower Facilities
- Physical Therapy
- Massage Therapy



Separate  
Fully Equipped  
Pilates Studio

• 626.403.6545

10% off for new Clients • Offer good thru July 1st.

- Weight Loss
- Golf Specific
- Pre/Post Natal
- Nutrition Programs

Insurance and workmans comp accepted

• 1942-44 Huntington Dr.  
South Pasadena, Ca. 91030  
[www.atptraining.com](http://www.atptraining.com)



returned to his hometown of Cobham, England, where he died nine years later. The ostrich farm (which continued to use the Cawston name) remained in operation even during the waning years after WWI. In 1934 the ostrich farm was sold at auction to satisfy a tax claim of \$432. One year later, the remaining ostriches were relocated and the South Pasadena ostrich farm unceremoniously closed its doors to the public forever.

#### Ostrich Farm Site - Today

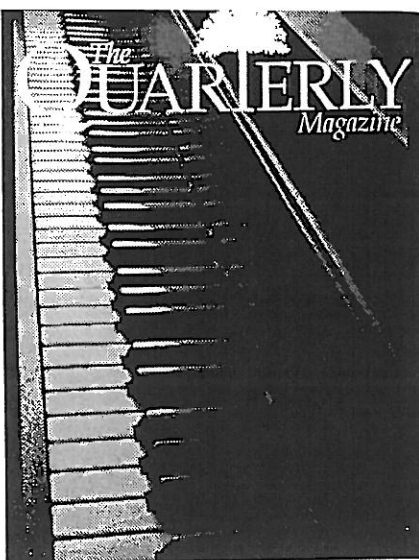
Today, a small industrial park occupies the pizza-shaped property commonly known as the Cawston Tract and is still bordered by Pasadena Avenue and the right-of-way for the future Metro Blue Line which was formerly the route of the famed Santa Fe "Super Chief" and earlier transcontinental trains. The ostrich farm is written about extensively in Jane Apostol's book "South Pasadena: A Centennial History" and is generally recognized as one of the city's two most prominent busi-

ness locations in its early history, the Raymond Hotel being the other.

On one of several visits to the Cawston Tract, I uncovered a small stone wall that measures about 3-feet high and 12 feet in length that once bordered the farm paralleling the railway tracks. Otherwise there is no physical evidence remaining that would indicate the world famous South Pasadena ostrich farm had ever existed.

These places of our past are not always preserved. But our memories of them and the great showmen who built them can be. We choose every day with our dollars which businesses will survive and which ones will fail. We may even strike out on our own—build that railway into the clouds or create a business empire from nothing more than ostrich feathers. For this reason, the Cawston legacy is merely a reflection of our own legacy, if we choose it. †

*Rick Thomas is a resident of South Pasadena and an avid local history collector.*



Send  
*The Quarterly*  
 to an out-of-town  
 friend or relative -  
 just \$15 a year.  
**(626) 799-1161**

**DAVID**  
**REAUME**  
 CONSTRUCTION

**CUSTOM HOMES**

**BATHROOMS**

**KITCHENS**

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE...

**WWW.REAUMECONSTRUCTION.COM**

**TEL. (626) 795-7810 • FAX (626) 793-1687**  
 LICENSE # 660204



Design By:  
 Kathryn Designs  
 (818) 762-3705

Pasadena Showcase House of Design 2001

LET  
 ME  
 BUILD  
 YOUR  
 DREAM